

Appl. No. 10/709,610
Amdt. dated April 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 14, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (2,567,561) in view of Witte et al. (6,831,759). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman and Witte, and further
5 in view of Edwards, Jr. (6,092,913). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman and Witte, and further in view of Verfueth (6,585,396).

Claim 1 has been slightly amended as required by the Examiner and the applicant presents an argument that the application is in condition for allowance as required.

10 1. Claim objections

Claim 1 has been slightly amended at the request of the Examiner for clarification of a limitation. The limitation now reads "a length running substantially parallel to the line except at the protrusion ~~where the length is~~ the protrusion being angled with respect to the line". It means that the reflective piece is substantially parallel to the light source and
15 that the reflective piece has a protrusion whose longer edges are not substantially parallel to the light source as can be clearly seen in Fig.4. Acceptance and reconsideration of claim 1 under this objection is respectfully requested.

2. Claim rejections

20 Col.3, lines 50-67 of Witte teach the reflective piece 110 is used to gather and reflect light during transparency scanning. Col.4, lines 40-65 of Hoffman teach that the goal of uniform illumination "is accomplished by providing light absorbing zone or zone 24 on the reflecting surfaces of the panel 12 behind the lamps 17."

25 Light absorption and light reflection are obviously different principles and have different real world end results at least in the amount of total illumination.

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The applicant asserts that to modify the device of Hoffman by replacing the reflector (and light absorbing zones) 12 with the reflector 110 of Witte is not obvious because it changes basic operating principles of operation of the reference device from light absorption to light reflection (MPEP 2143.01).

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Furthermore, for the same reason, it would not be obvious to circumvent the above with the application of light absorbing zones to the reflector 110 of Witte (when used in Hoffman) because Witte's principle is attempting to "gather more light" (Col.3, lines 66-67). Nor would it be obvious to incorporate the relative arrangement found in Hoffman of the lamps being between the reflector and the lens (Fig.2) into the device of Witte because it obviously would alter Witte's principle of reflecting "illumination light passing upwardly through openings in the shutter and reflect the light downwardly through the transparency and into the scanner module light path toward the optical sensor array" (Col.3, lines 51-55).

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Therefore, the applicant asserts that due to opposing principles of operation, it is not obvious under MPEP guidelines to combine the references to meet the claims of the present application and respectfully and formally requests that all claims be allowed or that the finality of the current Office action be withdrawn until appropriate references are located.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



Date: 04/14/2006

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